

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/923,344

Examiner

Steven H. Rao

Applicant(s)

KUBO ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/19/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15 and 18-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____             |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No. <u>07/16/2004</u> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                       | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|   | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

***DETAILED ACTION***

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of paper submitted under 37 CFR 1.114 claiming priority from U.S. Serial No. 09/992334 filed on August 08, 2001 which itself claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), from Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-244648 filed on November 08, 2000., 2001-131 142 filed on April 27, 2001', 2001-155928 filed on May 24, 2001 and 2001-219632 filed on July 19, 2001 which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Continued Prosecution Application***

The request filed on 07/16/2004 for a Request for Continued Prosecution Examination Application (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114(d) based on parent Application No. 09/992334 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

Acknowledgment is made of receipt of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449) filled July 16, 2004.

The references on PTO 1499 submitted on 07/16/2004 are acknowledged. All the cited references have been considered. However the foreign patents and

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documents cited by applicant are considered to the extent that could be understood from the abstract and drawings.

***Preliminary Amendment Status***

No preliminary amendment has been filed along with the RCE.

Therefore claims 1-15 and 18-33 as recited in the amendment filed on November 04, 2003 are currently pending in the Application.

***Reasons for allowance***

Claims 1-15 and 18-33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art taken either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitation of the dependent claims, in such manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in independent claims, which include the limitations added by the amendment of October 24, 2003 , namely wherein each of said liquid crystal domains includes : ( a) first liquid crystal molecules oriented substantially parallel to a normal of the first substrate thereby defining an axis, and ( b) second liquid crystal molecules existing around all lateral sides of said axis and radially inclined relative to the axis.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

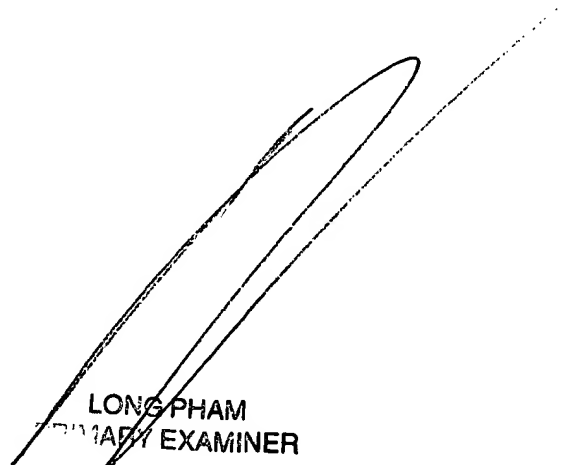
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Steven H. Rao whose telephone number is (703) 306-5584. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956. The Group facsimile number is (703) 308-7724.

Steven H. Rao

Patent Examiner

September 21, 2004.



LONG PHAM  
PATENT EXAMINER